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## On the North American PLATYPTERYGINAE.

BY AUG. R. GROTE,

Curator of Entomology, Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences.

Through the kindness of Prof. P. C. Zeller, I have recently been able to see Laspeyres' article on the genus *Platypteryx* in the publication of the Gesellschaft Nat. Freunde, Berlin, 1803, a work which has now become extremely rare. The date of this work shows that instead of being anterior, as I had considered it (*Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., Phila.*, 1862), it is posterior to the description of the same genus under the name of *Drepana*, by Franz v. P. Schrank, in the *Fauna Boica*, Vol. 2, p. 147—155 of this Author, and which bears the date of 1802. In this latter work the type of Schrank's genus is the European *D. sicula*; Schrank also includes the remaining European species, adding, however, an European Noctuid, misled by a coincidence in the shape of the primaries. Laspeyres does not fall into this error, but accurately and laboriously circumscribes the genus, under which he includes the entire group now regarded as a sub-family of Bombycidae—the *Platyptericidae* of Stephens, for which the corrected form *Platypteryginae* should be retained. The genus *Platypteryx* is divided by Laspeyres into sections: "Fam. A: *Alis falcatis*; Fam. B: *Alis subfalcatis*; Fam. C: *Alis rotundatis*." These divisions are demanded by the structure of the moths, and are afterwards considered as distinct genera by the English Entomologists, Leach and Stephens. Laspeyres' Fam. A contains the main body of the species, this author considering the European *P. fulcula* typical of the section. For this section Stephens retains the name *Drepana*, Schrank, under which the genus is primarily indicated. It is to this that our two North American species, described by myself (*Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci.*, p. 59, 1862, and p. 346, 1863), belong. For Laspeyres' Fam. B, the English Author retains the generic term of Laspeyres, who restricted this section to the single European species *P. lacertinaria*. We have a nearly allied species in the United States, and which represents the genus with us. It is the *Edupteryx bilineata* of Dr. Packard. This Author (*Proc. Ent. Soc., Phil.*, p. 375—376, 1864), overlooks the fact that his genus and species have a European representative,\* which indeed so closely resembles Dr. Packard's *E. bili-*

\* Equally ignorant of this fact at the time, I figured Dr. Packard's species as *Edupteryx bilineata* (*Proc. Ent. Soc. Phil.* Vol. 3, Plate 6, Fig. 9.)

*neata*, that the specific distinctions between the two are not very obvious, though, in the present paper there are regarded as sufficient for the purpose of validating the species. We have seen how closely *Platypteryx fabula*, Grote, resembles the European *Drepana falcatoria*. The propriety of considering Laspeyres' Fam. B as a different genus from his Fam. A, is additionally evidenced by its description as distinct under the new name of *Edapteryx* by Dr. Packard, a name which should, however, give way to that of Laspeyres as amended by Stephens. Laspeyres' third section of *Platypteryx*, his Fam. C, Leach, in 1815, erects into a distinct genus under the name of *Cilix*, which has found universal acceptance. This genus, which contains but a single European species, *C. spinula*, is unrepresented in the United States. A fourth genus, *Dryopteris*, *Grote* (1862), is unrepresented in Europe, and falls into a distinct section of the sub-family, differing more strongly from any of the sections of Laspeyres' genus *Platypteryx* than do these sections among themselves. It has an Asiatic ally in *Oreta*, *Walk.*, which closely resembles it in ornamentation, but is much stouter.

Two species described as North American are not considered valid in the following list of our species. These are *Drepana fasciata*, *Stephens* and *Drepana marginata*, *Walk.* Since Stephens and Haworth wrote, the first is unidentified. It should be recognisable from the character ascribed to its secondaries; "posterior wings with a single streak," which will at once separate it from either of our two species of *Drepana*; this character is unusual, and reminds us of the Phalaenid genus *Drepanodes*, *Guenée*. The second I have seen in the British Museum. It is a simple variety of *Dryopteris rosea*. In the Berlin and British Museums are identified specimens of *Platypteryx genicula*, *Grote*. All the species here accepted are known to me. No *Platypterygides* appear to be known from California.

### Family BOMBYCIDÆ.

#### Subfamily PLATYPTERYGINÆ.

##### **DREPANA**, *Schränk* (1802).

*arcuata*, *Walker*.

*Drepana arcuata*, *Walker*, Cat. B. M., p. 1164, (1855).

*Platypteryx fabula*, *Grote*, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., p. 59, (1862).

*genicula*, *Grote*.

*Platypteryx genicula*, *Grote*, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., p. 59, (1865).

##### **PLATYPTERYX**, *Laspeyres* (1808).

*bilineata*, *Grote*.

*Edapteryx bilineata*, *Packard*, Proc. Ent. Soc., Phil., p. 374, (1864).

**DRYOPTERIS**, Grote (1862).**rosea**, Grote.

*Drepana rosea*, Walker, C. B. M., p. 1164, (1855).

*Drepana marginata*, Walker, C. B. M., p. 1165, (1855).

*Citix americana*, Herrich-Schaeffer, Lep. Exot., p. 60, f. 470, (1856).

*Platypteryx formula*, Grote, Proc. Acad. N. Sci., Phil., p. 60, (1862).

*Dryopteris rosea*, Grote, Proc. Acad. N. Sci., Phil., p. 360, (1862).

**irrorata**, Packard.

*Dryopteris irrorata*, Packard, Proc. Ent. Soc., Phil., p. 377, (1864).

The *Platypteryx crosa* † of Dr. Harris' Catalogue, Ins. Mass., is stated by Dr. Packard (Syn. U. S. Bomb.,) to refer to *Lacosoma chiri-dota*, Grote, a moth related to *Perophora* as first shown by Dr. Packard, (l. c.) The alate female *Lacosoma* has been recently discovered.

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**Notes on the North American LEPIDOPTERA  
in the British Museum and described by Mr. Francis Walker.**

BY AUG. R. GROTE AND COLEMAN T. ROBINSON.

We have recently enjoyed the opportunity of examining the North American Moths contained in the British Museum Collection and which have been described by Mr. Francis Walker in the "Lists of the Lepidopterous Insects" published by that Institution. Bringing with us material for comparison, and aided by the kind attentions of Dr. Gray, Messrs. Walker, Waterhouse and Butler, we have been able to identify many of the species described by Mr. Walker which were previously unknown to American Entomologists except by name and their notoriously insufficient limitation in the work above alluded to.

It is perhaps unnecessary to do more than to refer here to the very general condemnation with which scientists have received the extended works of Mr. Walker on the Insects contained in the British Museum Collections.\* It will be simply sufficient to state that the opinion has been expressed that these works should be ignored, and that the law of priority should be suspended in its operation with regard to these Publications of our Author. It is, however, perhaps, useless to discuss the propriety of a course which it is not likely could be unani-mously and strictly adhered to. Since many of Mr. Walker's descriptions are recognisable and the types are contained in a Public

\* C. Stal, Notes on the British Museum Catalogue of Homoptera; Journal of Ent. Vol. 1, p. 477 Art. xxxvi. Anton Dohrn, Bemerkungen über Walker's Cat. of Homop. in the Coll. Brit. Mus., etc. Stettiner Ent. Zeit. pp. 97—102, 1863. Lederer, Wiener Ent. Monats. Band 7, pp. 253—255, 1863. Zeller, Ent. Zeit. Stettin, 27 Jahrgang, p. 137. 1866. etc.